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AS 5034 - New Industry Beverage Dispensing Standard (Inert Gases)

Australian Standard **AS 5034: Installation and use of inert gases for beverage dispensing** came into effect on 28 October 2005. It sets out the requirements for the use of inert gases for beverage dispensing and looks at all areas associated with the hazards of compressed and refrigerated gases.

Due to all gas systems being under pressure, it is possible that the system and equipment connections may develop leaks, causing build up of inert gases in cellars and low level areas which present hazards for personnel working in those areas. The standard was developed in response to a coronial inquiry into the death of a cellar worker from Victoria who died due to a gas leakage.

It's important to note that although this standard has no legal authority in its own right, it may be used in Common Law to prove a duty of care.

Compliance Dates

The AS 5034 requirements are phased in, depending on location and ventilation properties of storage and cellar areas:

- 1) Non-naturally ventilated areas and gas operated pumps requiring exhaust to the outside areas needed to comply by the **end of 2007**;
- 2) All other areas requiring compliance improvements by the **end of 2011**.

Existing installed equipment should be assessed for risk, and should be updated to conform to the AS 5034 standards. Rectification may involve installing a gas monitor, displaying signage or relocating gas storage to an outside area, where costs will vary from venue to venue. Therefore, hotels are recommended to seek professional advice to assess levels of compliance and to ensure that costs are minimised.

AHA (Vic) Corporate and Associate Members including **Fosters, Andale, BOC, Air Liquide and Lion Nathan** would be well suited to assist your business with any questions you may have concerning compliance with AS 5034.

Regards,

BRIAN KEARNEY